



Elk Falls Provincial Park Quinsam Campground

Guide to the “Post Plants”

Below are described trees, shrubs and flowers growing adjacent to various numbered sign posts used to identify specific campsites. Where possible, a number of alternate locations are given for each species. As you walk around the campground you can use this guide to help identify the plants which grow in this area. We hope that this will add to your camping experience and make you more aware of the great diversity of plants found in BC Parks.

| Site | Plant Name | Comments |
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| 2 | Ninebark | Tall shrub overhanging garbage can. Clusters of white flowers which change to red-dish seeds. Name derived from the supposedly nine layers of shreddy on the main stem. Leaves with three lobes. Another nice specimen along river at junction of Quinsam and Kingfisher Trails. |
| 3 | Sword Fern | Symmetrical clumps of meter-long leaves. Each leaflet has a projection on the base like the hilt of a sword. Underside of leaves covered twin rows of brown spore cases. Also at sites 39, 48 and 53. Very abundant in campground. |
| 5 | Grand Fir | Needles flat and notched at the tip. Arranged in a single layer on the twig. Scaly bark on mature trees. Cones never seen on ground as they disintegrate while still on tree. Also at sites 1 (two beautiful tall trees near bench), and 72 (sapling). |
| 8 | Red Alder | Oval, egg-sized leaves with rounded teeth. Edges of leaves folded under. Look for dime-sized, woody cones on tree and on ground. Like legumes, alders have roots with bacteria-containing nodules which fix atmospheric nitrogen. Also at sites 1 and 59. |
| 10 | Red Elderberry | Leaves, each consisting of 5-7 leaflets with toothed margins, are arranged opposite each other on the twig. Clusters of red berries in summer. Also at sites 27, 66 and 82. |
| 11 | Salmonberry | Large pink flowers followed by raspberry-like fruits. Leaves consisting of three leaflets with pointed teeth around the margins. Also at sites 19 and 26. Very abundant. |
| 12 | Bigleaf Maple | Dinner plate-sized leaves attached opposite each other on twig, a maple characteristic. Look for winged “helicopter” fruits on ground. Trunks of older trees usually covered with a thick layer of mosses. Also at sites 30, 34, 115. Very abundant in campground. |
| 21 | False Bugbane | Bunches of white, tasse-like flowers followed by red berries. Maple-like leaves up to 30 cm wide. Stems up to 1 m tall. “Bane” means poison and the true bugbane was hung in cabins to repel insects. |

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| 43 | Saskatoon | Bush to left of sign. Distinctive leaves with the edges smooth along the bottom half and notched along the upper half. Clusters of white flowers or black berries. Also at sites 53 and 116. |
| 46 | Western Hemlock | Needles of different lengths. Tip of tree drooping. Small cones at tips of branches. These are frequently found along the road. Frequently grows on rotting stumps as across the road at Site 45. Very shade tolerant. Also at site 36. |
| 47 | Vanilla Leaf | Masses of large 3-winged "butterfly" leaves on wiry, shin-high stems cover forest floor. A spike of white flowers extends above the leaf. Leaves used to be hung inside where they gave off a vanilla smell and repelled insects. |
| 53 | Oregon Grape | Fern-like sprays of evergreen, spiny, holly-like leaves are unique. Clusters of tiny, yellow, bell-shaped flowers followed by blue berries. Common under second-growth Douglas Fir as found in campground. Also at sites 66, 89 and 74. |
| 55 | Red Huckleberry | The green stems of this bush have sharp ridges and zigzag back and forth. Leaves 2 cm, oval. Red berries. Often grows on rotting stumps. Also at sites 112, 117 and 120. |
| 56 | Orange Honeysuckle | Vine trailing over the bushes in front of post. Cluster of orange, trumpet-like flowers or orange berries extend from two leaves fused together. |
| 56 | Dwarf Rose | This small rose (2 cm) is very common in the campground. Stems covered with short spines. Also at site 63. The fruits, called hips, are very high in Vitamin C. Nootka Rose, with 4-8 cm flowers is also found in campground but has two thorns at the base of every leaf. |
| 56 | Bracken | This is the other common fern in the campground. May grow shoulder high. Stems arise individually from ground. The underside of each leaf is bordered by spore cases. |
| 57 | Cascara | Four arm-sized trunks along north edge of campsite across from bench. Clusters of leaves 6-15 cm long with smooth margin and prominent parallel veins. Tiny flowers. A laxative called cascara sagrada is made from bark. Also at sites 31(across road), 57, 63 and 92. |
| 59 | Red-osier Dogwood | On stump to left of stake. Oval leaves with smooth margins, 5-10 cm long, arranged opposite each other on twigs. Clusters of white flowers followed by white berries. |
| 65 | Oval-leaved Blueberry | Growing to the left of a Red Huckleberry bush is this blueberry with egg-shaped leaves the size of walnuts. While red huckleberry has red berries, this plant has blue berries. Good place to compare these two species. |
| 79 | Sitka Spruce | Needles very prickly to the touch. Boughs hang down from branches to form characteristic triangular fringes. Cones with thin, wavy-edged scales often seen lying on ground. Strong, light wood |

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| 79 | Devil's Club | was used for building planes until the advent of aluminum. Also at site 53. 2 meter tall, spiny stems as thick as a walking stick adorned with large maple-like leaves. White clusters of flowers followed by red berries. Also at site 1 (behind firs). |
| 95 | Snowberry or Waxberry | Clumps of waxy, white berries follow the small, pinkish, bell-shaped flowers. Leaves vary in shape, some deeply notched, other not notched at all. Leaves arranged opposite each other on the twig. Terminal leaves often curled up into galls containing larvae of an insect. Also at site 109 (between thimbleberry). |
| 103 | Oceanspray | Bush with masses of white flowers which stay on as dried husks until next year. Velvety leaves with coarse teeth along the margins. Straight young limbs once used for arrows. |
| 106 | Douglas Fir | Soft, flat, pointed needles attached to twig by a short, curved stalk, giving the appearance of a miniature hockey stick. Unique cones with three-pronged bracts sticking out from the scales frequently seen on ground around tree. The trees in campground originated after the huge 1938 fire. These 60-year old trees cover much of the campground, especially the loop between sites 35 to 60. Majestic, old trees with thick bark and massive branches can be seen at Elk Falls 4 km west. Saplings at sites 104 and 105. |
| 109 | Thimbleberry | Velvety, dinner plate-sized leaves shaped like those of maples. Big (4 cm), white flowers followed by raspberry-like fruits. Also at sites 86 (behind oregon grape) and 108. |
| 100 | Sunk Cabbage | A few paces up the hill to the left of the post is a small creek bordered by the huge leaves (1.5 m long and 0.5 m wide) of skunk cabbage. Most noticeable in March and April when the yellow flowers dot ever wet place. Each "flower" consist of a yellow hood covering a fleshy club covered with little green blossoms which later turn into red berries. |